

Check the Plumbing Inside Your Home

Do it Yourself Home Lead Plumbing Checklist



It is important to be aware of potential hazards within your home. Older plumbing and faucets could be made of lead. This lead could get into your drinking water.

Completing an at-home lead plumbing checklist will help you know if you're at risk.

This checklist is a simple way to check if your home's plumbing might contain lead. The only sure way to know if you're at risk of lead in your water is through a water test or by hiring a plumber to complete a full inspection.

Test your drinking water for lead

Testing your water is the only way to know if there is lead in your drinking water. If you are on a community public water supply, the water supply may offer to test your water for free. Otherwise, find an EGLE (Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) certified lab.

Click this link bit.ly/3rKSNoA to find a certified laboratory for lead and copper testing near you. If you have questions about testing your water, you can contact MDHHS at 844-934-1315.

Complete a Faucet Inventory

What you need

Paper and something to write with.

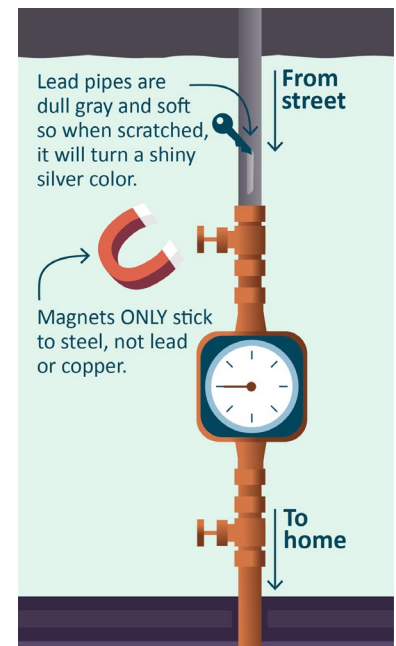
Follow these steps

- 1. Make a list of your home's faucets by going room by room and write down every faucet used for drinking, cooking, or brushing your teeth. Was the faucet installed before 2014?**
 - ☐ Yes – May contain up to 8% lead.
 - ☐ No – May contain up to 0.25% lead even if labeled "lead-free."
 - ☐ I don't know.
 - Check to see if there are any dates on the faucet or its box if you still have it.
 - Renting? Ask your landlord or property owner.
 - Still not sure? Assume it was installed before 2014.
- 2. If any faucets were installed before 2014, consider replacing the faucet and its shut off valve under the sink.** Look for replacement faucets made after 2014 and make sure they are NSF 61 certified or marked to contain 0.25 % lead or less. To learn more about how to find a certified lead reducing water filters and lead-free plumbing products click this link: nepis.epa.gov.

Complete a Home Plumbing Check

What you need

- A key or coin and a small magnet.
- Known location of the pipes and plumbing in your home.
- If your water comes from a community water supply: Locate the pipe coming out of your wall from the street to the home. This is typically found in the basement. A service line is only used on homes connected to a community water supply. Your interior plumbing is connected to the service line and water meter that goes to the rest of the home.
- If your water comes from a private residential well: Locate the pressure tank and pipes moving water in and out of the tank. The pipe moving water to the pressure tank is connected to a submersible pump of your well. Your interior plumbing of your home starts from the pipe moving water out of the pressure tank to your home.



Possible plumbing materials

Lead



Copper



Galvanized Steel



Plastic



Follow these steps

These steps can only help you identify the material of the private portion of a service line and interior plumbing. Contact your community public water supply to find out what type of plumbing material connects your service line to the public supply pipe or water main.

If you are on a private residential well, please call a certified well-driller in your area to help you identify plumbing material used to build your well and the connection to the pressure tank in your basement.

If at any point while completing the checklist you find your results indicate the possibility of lead:

- Get your water tested for lead.
- You may qualify for a program that can test your water and provide you a home lead inspection. Call 1-866-691-5323 or visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe for more information.

1. Homes built before 1988 may have lead plumbing or copper plumbing that has lead-soldered joints. Was your home built before 1988?

- ☐ Yes — Plumbing may contain lead.
- ☐ No — Plumbing is not likely to contain lead.

2. Determine if your piping is plastic or metal by tapping the pipe gently with the key or coin. Did it ring like two pieces of metal hitting together?

- ☐ Yes — Probably metal.
- ☐ No — Did it sound dull, and the pipe looks and feels plastic? If so, it's probably plastic.

3. Hold the magnet to the pipe. Did your magnet stick to the pipe?

- ☐ Yes — Possibly galvanized steel, iron, or copper.
- ☐ No — Possibly lead, copper, or plastic.

4. Carefully scratch the pipe with a key or a coin. Did the pipe turn a shiny silver color?

Note: If pipe is painted, use sandpaper to remove the paint before scratching the pipe (always wear a mask when sanding). Do not use a knife or other sharp tool. Be careful to not to make a hole in the pipe.

- ☐ Yes — Possibly lead, steel or copper.
- ☐ No — Not likely lead, steel, or copper and probably plastic. If the pipe turns shiny orange like the penny, it is probably copper.

5. Contact a licensed and insured plumber.

If you suspect any of your pipes may be made of lead, contact a licensed and insured plumber to confirm. They can also tell you what parts of your plumbing should be replaced.

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, go to Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe to learn more about the following ways you can reduce your exposure.



Test your
drinking water



Use a
water filter



Flush your
water pipes



Clean your
faucet aerator